

Art Unit: 1797

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Raasch on 12/17/09.

Non-elected claims 40-48 have been canceled.

1. (Currently Amended) A sample processing device comprising:
- a body comprising a transmissive layer that transmits selected light and a control layer comprising thick portions that block ~~that blocks~~ the selected light, wherein the control layer is attached to the transmissive layer with a first major surface of the control layer facing the transmissive layer and a second major surface facing away from the transmissive layer;
 - a plurality of process chamber structures formed in the control layer between the thick portions, wherein each of the process chamber structures comprises an interior window surface and an interior side surface formed by the control layer, wherein the interior window surface within each process chamber is formed by a thin portion of the control layer, and wherein the thin portion of the control layer is sufficiently thin so that the thin portion of the control layer transmits the selected light from the transmissive layer;
 - a cover sheet attached to the second major surface of the control layer, wherein the cover sheet and the control layer are coextensive, wherein the cover sheet and the plurality of process chamber structures define a plurality of process chambers in the sample processing device, wherein the selected light can be transmitted into or out of each process chamber through the interior window surface; and
 - a conduit in the sample processing device, wherein each process chamber of the plurality of process chambers is in fluid communication with the conduit.

Application/Control Number: 10/682,597
Art Unit: 1797

Page 3

Art Unit: 1797

14. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a sample processing device, the method comprising:

providing a body that comprises:

a transmissive layer that transmits selected light;

a control layer comprising thick portions that block ~~that blocks~~ the selected light, wherein the control layer is attached to the transmissive layer with a first major surface of the control layer facing the transmissive layer and a second major surface facing away from the transmissive layer;

a plurality of process chamber structures formed in the control layer between the thick portions, wherein each of the process chamber structures comprises an interior window surface and an interior side surface formed by the control layer, wherein the interior window surface within each process chamber is formed by a thin portion of the control layer, and wherein the thin portion of the control layer is sufficiently thin so that the thin portion of the control layer transmits the selected light from the transmissive layer; and

attaching a cover sheet to the second major surface of the control layer, wherein the cover sheet and the control layer are coextensive, wherein the cover sheet and the plurality of process chamber structures define a plurality of process chambers in the sample processing device, and wherein attaching the cover sheet forms a conduit in the sample processing device, wherein each process chamber of the plurality of process chambers is in fluid communication with the conduit.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In addition to the remarks of record, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention with a control layer having a thick portion that blocks selected light wavelengths and a thin portion of the same control layer that permits transmission of the same selected light wavelengths.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 1797

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LYLE A. ALEXANDER whose telephone number is (571)272-1254. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/LYLE A ALEXANDER/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797